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BUILDING PLANS

The diagrammatic stage of the building plans for the National Library of Medicine, approved by the Public Buildings Service on January 31, was released by the Bureau of the Budget in mid-March. The architects are now proceeding with preparation of drawings for the next planning stage. It is expected that final drawings will be in hand before the end of the calendar year.

THE RAVAGES OF TIME

Last month the NEWS reported the discovery of unsafe flooring in one of the basement rooms of the Library. As the work of repair progressed, we were made aware of just how bad the situation was. Removal of a section of wall shelving revealed that the floor had settled almost two inches below a bench mark on the wall which was established in the spring of 1955. When the rotted flooring and supports were removed, the source of the water under the floor was discovered to be a faulty waste line. While the accumulated water was being pumped out, an emergency sewer cap in the next room was blown off, releasing water which threatened to flood the folios on the lower shelves there. The folios were quickly moved to a temporary location and library service from the folio collection has been temporarily curtailed.

Proper plumbing connections have now been installed; the gaping hole is free of water, and workmen are preparing to lay a concrete floor. When this is finished, new shelving will be installed in the room, and portions of the collection will be reshifted.

NLM INTERNS, 1958-1959

Internships at the National Library of Medicine for the academic year beginning in September 1958 have been offered to Maxine Kennedy, University of Washington, and to Lea Dee, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn. Miss Kennedy and Miss Dee are outstanding students who will receive master's degrees in library science this year.

PUBLICATIONS EN ROUTE

Dr. Anne E. Caldwell's bibliography on psychopharmacological agents is still in the hands of the printer; publication is expected sometime in June.

Mr. Charles A. Roos is at work on a bibliography of space medicine, to be published during the summer. A preliminary edition of this bibliography, necessarily incomplete, was prepared for distribution at the meeting of the Aero Medical Association in Washington last month.

A handbook on Russian medical literature is now in the planning stage; this would be a joint effort of the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

For the Macy Foundation Conference on the Central Nervous System and Behavior, held at Princeton in February, the Art Section of the National Library of Medicine prepared a special exhibit on "Development of Russian Neurophysiology." The work of I. M. Sechenov, Reflexes of the Brain, and the doctoral dissertation of I. P. Pavlov were highlights in the display.

National Library Week (March 16-22) was observed with an exhibit on "Library Service to Medicine," also prepared by the Art Section. The exhibit showed the diversity in types of medical libraries, with photographs of the libraries of a medical school, a research institute, a drug company, and military and civilian hospitals, each of which serves the specific needs of a different type of clientele.

MULTIPLE MOVES

Following recent management studies, the decision has been made to centralize all mail-handling functions in the basement mail room of the National Library of Medicine, and to decentralize correspondence files to the using divisions. So many attendant problems of space management were involved in this decision that further study had to be given to this aspect. As a result the Library is in the midst of multiple reallocations of space. When the dust has settled, the old Index-Catalogue manuscript file will be located in the basement instead of on the second floor; the interlibrary loan desk will have been moved to the second floor adjacent to other circulation operations, and several elements of the photographic and administrative services will have been reshuffled.

We are quite certain that these moves will yield dividends in increased efficiency.

MORE WILDLIFE

During late hours at work on a long bibliography, an NLM staff member was comforted by the presence of a pair of pigeons nesting in the exterior part of the air conditioner on the window ledge. When workmen came a few weeks ago to clean out the air conditioner shaft, the pigeon nest was in jeopardy. Although the nest itself could not be saved, our librarian rescued the one egg therein, still warm from the brave pigeon who stayed on the nest until forcibly ejected. A primitive incubator was made out of a card box and placed next to the heat register, with a "do not disturb" sign to alert the night cleaning force. On the following morning the box contained one broken eggshell and one pigeon chick. There was momentary consternation; then the local Audubon Society was called, and within a few hours two members of the Society arrived on the scene, equipped with eye-dropper and food supplies. The little chick was taken away to an aviary where homeless and wounded birds are given proper care. We understand the bird is doing well in his new home.

So far as we can determine, this may be the first reported case of a pigeon hatched in a medical library.

MEDGIZ PLAN FOR 1958

A recent issue of Novye knigi [New books] presents the 1958 prospectus of Meditsinskoe gosudarstvennoe izdatel'stvo [Medgiz], the principal Soviet publisher of medical books. About 470 titles will be published; this is an increase of about 20% over the 1957 production.

Medgiz will publish 178 titles of "scientific medical literature" in 1958. Volumes 4-7 of the Great Medical Encyclopedia will appear, as will volumes 4 and 15 of I.I. Mechnikov's Collected Works and volume 3 of Pirogov's Selected Works. Several medical atlases will be published; for example, Atlas of Medical Plants (edited by N. V. Tsitsin); Ophthalmoscopic Atlas (compiled by P. S. Plitas); Atlas of the Brain of the Dog (compiled by O. S. Adrianov), the first manual on macro- and microscopic structure of the central nervous system of the dog. Medgiz also plans to publish translations of 15 books of foreign authors.

The output of "scientific-popular literature" will be doubled in comparison with 1957. The series Library of the Practitioner will include 76 titles on different subjects, and 13 titles will be published in the series Library of the middle medical worker. A number of manuals and bibliographic reference works are in preparation, among them Z. N. Zamkova's Osnovnye printsipy meditsinskoi bibliografii [General principles of medical bibliography].

The output of popular literature on medicine will be increased; additional volumes will be published in such series as Advices of a physician, Lectures for mothers, Library of the school child, etc.

In the textbook field, 22 titles will be published for the students of higher medical schools and 13 titles for the students of middle medical schools.

NLM CATALOG, 1957

The National Library of Medicine Catalog, 1957, 613 p., will be available in April; copies will be sold at $17.50 plus 40 cents postage. Purchase orders should be addressed to the Card Division, Library of Congress, Washington 25, D. C.

RUSSIAN BIBLIOGRAPHICAL GUIDE

A recent acquisition is V. Gnucheva's Putevoditel' po inostrannoi bibliografii meditsinskoi literatury [Guide to foreign bibliography of medical literature], Leningrad, Publichnaia biblioteka im. Saltykova-Shchedrina, 1957.

This guide is arranged in four sections: (1) general medical bibliographies; (2) medical bibliographies by subject; (3) bibliographies of fields related to medicine; (4) bibliographies of bibliographies.

Special attention is given to the INDEX-CATALOGUE," one of the most comprehensive and fundamental bibliographic sources of medical literature"; the ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY CATALOGUE, where "the Anglo-American literature is reflected with great completeness, the literature of other countries somewhat less, but as a whole it may serve as a valuable reference tool"; the CURRENT LIST OF MEDICAL LITERATURE; QCIM; EXCERPTA MEDICA. Among subject bibliographies, several bibliographies of the National Library of Medicine are listed; Dr. E. Brodman's The development of medical bibliography is annotated in the chapter on bio-bibliographies.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

The Loan Librarian of the National Library of Medicine recently received a request for the loan of an article whose title was given as "Personal communication to the authors." Having seen this, we are tempted to conclude that we have seen everything.

Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, March 22, 1957

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